

derived from the molecularly oriented fibers of a precursor assembly of
molecularly oriented thermoplastic polymer fibers.

28. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the crosslinked fibers are irradiation crosslinked with ionising radiation.

29. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the crosslinking step is carried out in an environment which is substantially free of oxygen gas and which comprises a monomeric compound selected from the group consisting of alkynes and alkenes, the alkenes being those having at least two double bonds.

30. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, where the fibers have a weight average molecular weight in the range 10,000 to 400,000.

31. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27, wherein the polyolefin polymer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymer, a copolymer containing a major proportion of polypropylene, polyethylene homopolymer and a copolymer containing a major proportion of polyethylene.

32. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27 wherein the polyolefin polymer fibers of the precursor assembly have a gel fraction in the range 0.55 to 0.7.

33. (New) A material as claimed in claim 27 comprising up to 60% by

weight of an inorganic filler.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO